

From: [Thiele, Aaron](#)
To: [Thiele, Aaron](#)
Cc: [Cameron, Scott](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Mihalic](#); [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Greg Sheehan](#); [Gregory Sheehan](#); [James Cason](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Rusty Roddy](#); [Scott Angelle](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Vincent Devito](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Andrea Travnicek](#); [Timothy Williams](#); [William Dove](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [Caroline Boulton](#)
Subject: Bi-Weekly Meeting Reminder on 9/27
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:27:08 AM
Attachments: [Bi-Weekly Briefing 9-13-17.pptx](#)

All,

I just wanted to give you heads up that we will be having a bi-weekly briefing this Wednesday at 9:30am. All slides are due by noon tomorrow. I will be out of town starting tomorrow so please be sure to forward them to Caroline Boulton who will be compiling them. Attached is the previous briefing's slides for your reference.

best,
Aaron



Bi-Weekly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke

September 13, 2017



Agenda

1. Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. Water and Science
3. Policy, Management, and Budget
4. Land and Minerals Management
5. Insular Areas
6. Indian Affairs
7. Solicitor
8. Office of the Secretary
9. Congressional and Legislative Affairs
10. External Affairs/
Intergovernmental
11. Communications
12. White House Liaison
13. Scheduling and Advance



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Current Operations

- FWS

- 2017 Duck Stamp art contest, September 15 and 16
- 2018 Duck Stamp theme announcement: *Hunter Conservationists*

- NPS

- FY2017 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance Apportionment, \$94 million to states, territories and DC



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

• FWS

- National Sportsmen's Day, September 23
- Expansion of hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges, potential events
- National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 8-14, 2017
- Ten species listings under the multi-district litigation settlements with the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians, September and October

• NPS

- U.S. Semiquincentennial (250th) Anniversary Commission establishment, September
- Sexual harassment survey results, September
- Yellowstone bison transfer to Fort Peck
- Blue Ridge Parkway permits for the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog management information release
- Senate Subcommittee on National Parks hearing, *Encouraging the Next Generation to Visit National Parks*, September 27
- Ceremonial groundbreaking for new World War I Memorial, Pershing Park, November 9
- Fee Increase



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Major Events and Travel

- Acting Assistant Secretary Todd Willens
 - September 18-20, Yellowstone National Park with APHIS and Fort Peck Tribe
- FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan
 - September 16, Federal Duck Stamp Awards in Stevens Point, Wisconsin
 - September 19-20, Johnny Morris Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium, Springfield, Missouri

Acting NPS Director Mike Reynolds

- September 13-15, Virgin Island and Puerto Rico national parks



Water and Science



Water and Science

Current Operations

Bureau of Reclamation

- Office of Inspector General Report-Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- Federal Columbia River Power System Meetings with CEQ/OMB/Hill
- Major Construction Contract on Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project

U.S. Geological Survey

- Hurricane Harvey Response: High water mark flagging and surveying
- Hurricane Irma Response: Storm surge sensors, gages
- Critical Minerals Report and Executive Order



Water and Science

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Bureau of Reclamation

- WIIN Act Funding and Intent \$67 Million for Construction
- Navajo Generating Station
- Minute 323 – U.S. Mexico Cooperation Colorado River late September

U.S. Geological Survey

- National Academy of Sciences-Water Mission Study
- Resource Assessments
- Studies



Water and Science

Major Events and Travel

Bureau of Reclamation

- Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group, Phoenix Sept. 20-21
- September 27-29 Colorado River Symposium, Santa Fe
- Central Valley Project Meetings October 10-13, Sacramento, California

U.S. Geological Survey

- International Group of Earth Observations-Geo Week, Oct. 23, D.C.
- Alaska Mapping Executive Committee Meeting, Oct. 26, Anchorage
- Pecora 20 Symposium-partnership with NASA Nov. 14 Sioux Falls, SD

- Annual Leave September 14-15



Policy, Management and Budget



Policy, Management and Budget

Current Operations

- Government Performance and Results Act revised strategic plan for DOI
 - Draft plan going to Asst. Sec'y. and Bureau directors for review on 9/15
 - Draft plan to OMB expected on September 25, after Deputy Secretary review
 - Final plan due for public release on 1/20/18
 - Implications for SES performance standards
 - Needs to be coordinated with reorganization plan submitted September 11
- FY 2019 President's Budget
 - Budget went to OMB on September 11; staff level discussions under way
 - \$100M placeholder for reorganization plan
 - OMB Passback/appeals after Thanksgiving
- Hurricanes Irma and Harvey response
 - DOI responding to FEMA direction
 - Anticipating OMB data call for FY17 emergency supplemental appropriations bill



Policy, Management and Budget

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Grants management
 - Avoiding conflict of interest between grantee/DOI employee
 - Shaping grant eligibility criteria up front is preferable to individual grant award reviews after the fact
 - Asst. Secy's being asked to focus grants up front in support of Secretarial Top 10 Priorities
- DOI reorganization for the next 100 years
 - Synchronize with GPRA strategic plan draft to OMB on 9/25
 - Placeholder in FY 19 budget; low-cost reprogrammings in FY 17/18
 - Settling on the standard regions
 - Phasing and project plan for implementation of reorganization in FY18, FY19



Policy, Management and Budget

Major Events and Travel

- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, New Orleans LA, 9/14 (in coordination with USDA)
- National Association of State Foresters, Charleston WV, 9/19, (in coordination with USDA/FS)
- Partnership for Public Service's Annual Service to America awards dinner, 9/27, Washington DC (interagency team including DOI a finalist)
- Royalty Policy Committee first meeting during week of October 4



Land and Minerals Management



Land and Minerals Management

BLM

Current Operations

- NM lease sale resulted in \$130,855,717 bid received. (2nd largest bid in BLM history)
- Wildfire on BLM Land
 - In 2017 2.5 million acres of BLM lands have burned
 - Tohakum 2 fire in NV is the largest fire on BLM lands (94,221 acres) now 95% contained

30-60 Day Outlook

- FY19 Budget
- Venting and Flaring
- Planning Efficiencies Review/ NEPA Streamlining



Land and Minerals Management

OSMRE

Current Operations

- OSMRE has fully moved to MIB (4500 Hall)
- State and Federal Coal Regulatory Summit September 19th-20th, 2017 in Main Interior's South Penthouse
- OSMRE-FWS ESA reinitiation/consultation

30-60 Day Outlook

- Restoring regulatory certainty:
 - Clean Water Act Memorandum
 - Federal inspection frequencies (INE-35)



Land and Minerals Management

BOEM

Current Operations

- **Mid-September, BOEM published final rule on OCS sand, gravel, and shell resources for federal government projects.**
 - Regs replace guidelines, add no additional burden to states or industry.
- **Offshore Wind:**
 - CW ROD to be published by Sept. 15 to meet the schedule DOJ has submitted to the Court.
 - CWA submitted a second request for a 2-year lease term and rent payment suspension. BOEM is reviewing CWA's request for a second suspension.

30-60 Day Outlook

- **Next milestone in 5 year plan-Publishing draft proposed program (Due Mid-November)**
 - RFI period ended August 17th
 - BOEM Received approximately 815,000 comments
- **DoD/DOI Offshore 5 year plan related task force**



Land and Minerals Management

BSEE

Current Operations

Hurricane Update

- Hurricane Harvey- All platforms re-manned
- Hurricane Irma- 15 platforms have been evacuated; 1 drilling rig evacuated, re-manning in process
- All of the oil and gas pipeline systems in the GOM continue to be operational.
- No reports of pollution or rig, platform, and pipeline damages resulting from either Storm Harvey or Storm Irma have been submitted.

30-60 Day Outlook

BSEE Regulatory Reform

- Conduct Well Control Rule Forum in Houston, TX on September 20.
- Initiate rulemaking process for Production Safety Systems Rule



Land and Minerals Management

Major Events and Travel

- Director Angelle will be in the Gulf of Mexico Region September 17-24
- DAS Casey Hammond will travel to Albuquerque September 14-15 for the Western Regional Partnership Steering Committee meeting



Insular Areas



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

OIA Efforts Related to Hurricane Irma

- Worked with the Secretary to release \$223 million in rum tax to the GVI.
- Authorizing OIA engineering and architectural contractor that is already working with the Virgin Islands Department of Education to assist GVI in performing school damage assessments and inspections for recovery efforts.
- Created central web page to provide information on USVI recovery efforts.
- Working with the USVI government, FEMA, and other federal partners to identify federal technical expertise and financial assistance that may be available to help get public facilities and services back up.
- Senior OIA staff (Basil Ottley) will be travelling to VI to support VI government and federal partners on the ground.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas



Coral Bay, St. John



St. Thomas Public Housing



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas



Hospital on St. Thomas



Cyril E. King Airport, St. Thomas



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas



St. Thomas



Damage to solar panel fields



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations

- **September 12, 2017** – Acting AS Nikolao Pula will meet with the Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to the United States, Mr. Gerald Zackios, to discuss the September 15 meeting of RMI President Hilda Heine with Secretary Zinke.
- **September 13, 2017** -- Acting AS Pula will meet with the Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to the United States, Mr. Akillino Susaia, to discuss the September 19 meeting of FSM President Peter Christian with Secretary Zinke.
- **September 14, 2017** – Acting AS Pula and Douglas Domenech will brief the Secretary on the September 19 meeting of the Secretary with the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Honorable Hilda Heine.
- **September 14, 2017** – Acting AS Pula will attend the annual gathering of Pacific people for “Pacific Night,” at the New Zealand Embassy.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations

- **September 15, 2017** – The Secretary will meet with the Honorable Hilda Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It is anticipated that Douglas Domenech and Nikolao Pula will attend.
- **September 15, 2017** – Acting AS Pula and Doug Domenech will attend the reception for President Hilda Heine at the Embassy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
-
- **September 19, 2017** – Acting AS Pula and Doug Domenech will brief the Secretary on the September 25 meeting of the Secretary with the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Honorable Peter Christian.
-
- **September 22, 2017** – Acting AS Pula will meet with Ms. Mary Okada, President of the Guam Community College.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations

This Week – Press releases will be prepared on the annual meetings of –

- The Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which had an audited 2016 corpus of \$295 million, and
- The Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia, which had an audited 2016 corpus of \$467 million.

Next Week – (Tentative) A press release will be prepared, in concert with DOI Communications and the White House, if and when plans are finalized for President Donald Trump to visit to the United States Virgin Islands to survey the damage left by Hurricane IRMA.

Next Week – Press releases will be prepared on –

- Grant funding for the Virgin Islands related to the Hurricane IRMA disaster, and fiscal year 2017 close-out funding for the –
 - Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
 - The Federated States of Micronesia, and
 - The Republic of the Marshall Islands.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- September 25, 2017 – Meeting with Honorable Peter Christain, President of the Federated States of Micronesia



Indian Affairs



Indian Affairs

Current Operations

- Appointment of John Tahsuda as PDAS
- Relocation from South Interior completed
- Tribes as IP holding companies in the news
- ACT Reporting that American Indian students less college prepared than in 2013
- White House Tribal Finance Roundtable follow-up
 - CFPB is suing tribes; initial DOJ meeting
 - New Market Tax Credits research
- White House Energy Roundtable follow-up
 - Attended NAESB Meeting
 - Navajo Generating Station efforts
- Update of Land into Trust Regulations
- APG for tribal energy projects developed
- Development of Telework Internal Controls
- Trade and Commerce consultation period extended until October 30



Indian Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Develop discussion draft of Land-into-trust regulations for NCAI meeting
- Get charter school policy proposals from National Indian Education Association
- Work with Treasury on New Market Tax Credit study
- Develop policy brief on tribes as IP holding companies
 - Possible coordination with
 - DOJ
 - PTO
 - White House Council on Native American Affairs
- Trade and Commerce consultation and data collection until October 30



Indian Affairs

Major Events and Travel

- Keynote Addresses / Presentations
 - National Intertribal Tax Alliance (John Tahsuda, 9/12)
 - Indian Gaming mid-year (John Tahsuda, 9/20)
 - Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (Gavin Clarkson, 9/21)
 - Native American Finance Officers Association (Gavin Clarkson, 10/2)
 - Global Gaming Expo (John Tahsuda possibly 10/3, Gavin Clarkson, 10/5)



Solicitor



Office of the Solicitor

Current Operations

- M-Opinion: Railroad Rights-of-Way



Office of the Solicitor

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- M-Opinion: Migratory Birds



Office of the Solicitor

Major Events and Travel

- NO TRAVEL BY POLITICALS



Office of the Secretary



Office of the Secretary

Key Executive Orders

- EO 13771: Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs (Jan 30)
 - 2:1 regulatory requirement
 - Fall 2017 Draft Unified Agenda draft due September 18 (134 entries)
 - High-level deregulatory efforts focusing on energy:
 - Hydraulic Fracturing
 - Venting and flaring
 - Royalty Policy Rule
- EO 13777 Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda (Feb 24)
 - Established Regulatory Reform Task Force Mar 15
 - Reg reform website set up. 113 public comments
 - 21 deregulatory actions to be finalized in FY 2017
 - Addition of regulatory reduction to GPRa standards by Oct 1
- EO 13781: Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch (Mar 13)
 - Reorganization plan submitted to OMB September 11
- EO 13783: Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth (Mar 28)
 - Draft Energy Burdens Report Submitted July 26
 - Final Energy Burdens Report due Sep 24
 - SO3348 Federal Coal Moratorium (Mar 29)
 - SO 3349 American Energy Independence (Mar 29)
 - SO3350 America-First Energy strategy (May 1)
 - SO 3352 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (May 31)



Office of the Secretary

Key Executive Orders

- EO 13792: Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act (Apr 26)
 - Draft Report submitted August 23
 - Specific recommendations in progress, promised to WH by October 6
 - POTUS target travel for end of October/Nov
 - DOI management plans review
- EO 13795: Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy (Apr 28)
 - 5 year plan RFI in July 2017
 - Submitted energy data to Commerce for Marine Sanctuary Review
- EO 13807: Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure (Aug 15)
 - Secretarial Order on NEPA Streamlining signed by Dep Sec
 - Energy Corridors on Federal Lands
 - Interior submitted Reorg plan to OMB Sep 11
- Upcoming Executive Orders
 - Reorganization EO
 - Critical Minerals EO



Congressional and Legislative Affairs



Congressional Affairs

Current Operations

- Nominees
 - Burman, Domenech & Combs – Marked Up and awaiting floor vote
 - Nelson (Solicitor) & Balash (ASLM) – Hearing happened September 7, 2017 & Business meeting scheduled for 9/14/17
 - Potential Upcoming Nominations: BLM, NPS, FWS
- FY18 Budget QFR Approvals - Finalized SENR, HNR awaiting OMB approval
- White River Bridge – Call with CODEL & Aurelia Skipwith
- Amodei/Heller – Meetings Re: MGM
- Stehekin Road – Rep. Reichert



Congressional Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Hearings

- (9/13) SCIA Hearing to discuss progress made in implementing recommendations related to Indian Programs as identified in the 2017 GAO High Risk List Report. This is a follow up from the May 2017 hearing on the same subject.
 - Witness: Mike Black (BIA) & Tony Dearman (BIE)
- (9/27) SENR Hearing on Encouraging the Next Generation to Visit National Parks
 - Witness: Lena McDowell
- Potential Hearings: House HS IBC Hearing (9/22) & SENR Vegetation Management Hearing (9/19)

Legislative Agenda

- Eastern Gulf of Mexico/NDAA – Sen. Nelson
- Interior Appropriations Amendment Floor Schedule & Outlook
- Maintenance Backlog Fund Language



Congressional Affairs

Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Meetings for Secretary Zinke
 - Congressional Sportsmen Foundation – 9/13/17
 - Majority/Minority meetings with HNRC & HAC-I as promised in hearing are in progress
 - Louisiana Coastal Tour – Sen. Cassidy
 - Everglades Tour – Sen. Rubio – Confirmed for October 7
- Congressional Meetings for Dep. Sec. Bernhardt
 - Chairman Bishop – 9/14/17
 - Western Caucus – In progress



External and Intergovernmental Affairs



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Current Operations

- Indiana - Indiana Dunes
- New Jersey Governors Office
- Texas DOT
- Robbie Bond – National Monuments
- County Commissioners



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Major Events

- Monument Rollout
- Wild Horse & Burro Round Table

Travel

- Public Lands Council



Communications



Office of Communications

Current Operations

- Sept 12 – ongoing - Hurricane Harvey and Irma Communications Coordination. Issued several internal messages, videos, as well as a press release on USVI efforts.
- Sept. 12 – issued press release Directing Interior Bureaus to Take Aggressive Action to Prevent Wildfires.
- Sept. 13 – announcing PDAS for Indian Affairs, John Tahsuda.
- Sept. 14 – announcing Secretarial Order on Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States
- Sept. 14 – announcing \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and D.C. for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects.
- Sept. 16 – Duck Stamp winners will be announced.
- Sept. TBD – editing Secretary video on his vision for the DOI Re-Org to be sent to all employees.



Office of Communications

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- *Themes: hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation that drive home our Conservation Stewardship message*

To do:

- Refine strategic comms plan around the policy priorities, ensuring all are aligned with our Top 10 priorities
- Establish Communications rollout for Re-org.
- Working with WH on Critical Minerals report comms rollout.
- We stand ready to execute Monument Review outreach plan when WH is ready to release the report.



White House Liaison



White House Liaison

Personnel:

- Schedule C
 - 31 of 68 onboard
 - 1 starting
 - 5 in process
- SES
 - 19 of 44 onboard
 - 3 starting
 - 6 in process
- PAS
 - 5 of 17 Announced
 - 15 of 17 Submitted



Scheduling and Advance



Scheduling and Advance

In Town Events:

- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation Annual Banquet Remarks (9/13)
- National Stone Sand and Gravel Association Remarks (9/25)
- National Petroleum Council 9/25
- Wild Horse Roundtable 9/26
- National Clean Energy Week Symposium Remarks (9/26)
- Jefferson Island Club Awards Ceremony (9/26)

Upcoming Trips

- Springfield, Missouri (9/20-9/21)
- Dallas, Texas (9/21-9/22)
- New Jersey / Pennsylvania (9/27-9/29)
- South Carolina / Georgia / Florida(10/2-10/10)
- Arizona / Texas (10/12-10/16)
- POTENTIAL: Travel to U.S. Virgin Islands with POTUS